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montana committee for the humanities newsletter

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# MCH Funds Montana History Projects

In keeping with its support for humanities projects of genuine interest and value to Montanans, MCH recently awarded funds for eight oral history workshops, a conference on turn-of-the-century Butte, and the Montana History Conference.

**Oral History Workshops Featured MOHA Handbook**

During April and May, the Montana Oral History Association (MOHA) sponsored oral history workshops at Anaconda, Livingston, Kalispell, Box Elder, Custer Battlefield, Roundup, Glasgow and Glendive. The workshops drew nearly 100 participants for intensive instruction on conducting interviews and designing local oral history projects.

A main feature of the workshops was a new handbook written and compiled by MOHA: **Oral History for Montana, A Manual**. It contains step-by-step suggestions for planning oral history projects, interviewing, and storing materials. Although the manual focuses on interview techniques, it also has a section on equipment and a useful bibliography.

While the supply lasts, you can buy a copy for $2 from the Oral History Office, Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620.

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# NEH Budget: A Mixed Blessing

**The Good News . . .**

Thanks to the work of many friends of the humanities in Montana and across the nation, President Reagan's proposed 50 percent cut from the National Endowment for the Humanities' budget did not occur last year. For fiscal year (FY) 1982, Congress chopped only 16 percent off its NEH appropriations for FY 1981. This means that NEH received $130.5 million instead of the $85 million for which it had designed its budget. Some of this surplus money has been distributed to the state programs. This spring the Montana Committee for the Humanities received a supplemental grant award of $284,000, which will enable it to continue its grant-making activities at current levels through October of 1983.

It seems a good time, then, to reassure you that in spite of all the talk about reductions in federal spending, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the state arm of NEH, is alive and well. We still have money to fund programs, ones, of course, that forward public use, appreciation and understanding of the humanities—areas like history, folklore, literature, philosophy and language. Last year we awarded $213,500; this year, about $243,467 will be regranted between now and the fall of 1983.

(Continued on page 3)

# A Call for Nominations

MCH must replace five current members. Terms expire in December for University of Montana foreign languages professor Jerry Fetz, Mary Blew, Dean at Northern Montana College; and Jan VanRiper, Helena attorney. Gary Thogersen, Sidney attorney, and Darryl Gray of Great Falls have resigned.

Nominations should have a statement describing the nominee's qualifications, a resume of his or her background and a statement from the nominee indicating willingness to serve. All nominees must be committed to promoting public appreciation for and use of studies in the humanities. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

As a rule, half the MCH members represent the academic community, and half represent the general public. In this instance, two replacements will be chosen from the academic community, three from the general public. The Committee also tries to proportion its membership to represent the different regions, ethnic groups, and occupations of the state.

MCH meets four times a year to set policy, to act on grant applications and to evaluate its program. Members serve without pay but receive expenses for attending Committee meetings.

Send nominations including a resume and two letters of recommendation by October 1, 1982, to the Montana Committee for the Humanities, P.O. Box 8036, Hellgate Station, Missoula, MT 59807.

## Historical Funding
(continued from page 1)

**September Conference Will Examine Butte as Urban Frontier**

The Butte Historical Society, with support from Montana Power Company, The Anaconda Company and MCH, will sponsor a conference September 24-26 in Butte to explore the elements that made Butte unique at the turn of the century. Lectures and discussions will focus on three aspects of the town's stormy history: 1) mining/technology and its effects on business and commerce in Butte; 2) radical labor and politics in Butte; and 3) cultural life in Butte.

The conference will open Friday evening with a banquet and lectures by geologist Hugh Dresser of Montana Tech, urban historian Elliot West of University of Arkansas, and Butte historian Michael P. Malone of Montana State University. Saturday's lectures and panels will take up the history of mining and mining technology in Butte, the movement to stop air pollution at the turn of the century, the development of Butte's business district, and the history of labor and politics in Butte. The conference will conclude on Sunday with several walking tours of Butte's historic districts, followed Sunday afternoon by sessions about Butte's cultural life.

For information on the conference, contact Butte Historical Society, P.O. Box 3913, Butte, MT 59701.

An early photo of Butte by C. Owen Smithers, Sr.

**Montana History Conference Looks North to Canada**

Montana history enthusiasts will gather in Great Falls October 28-30 for the Ninth Annual Montana History Conference. Funded by MCH and sponsored by the Montana Historical Society, this year's conference will include two full days of panel discussions, lectures, workshops, slide shows and folklore demonstrations. Its theme is "From the River North: The Heritage of Western Canada and The United States."

As a conference highlight, at Saturday's banquet James Welch, noted Montana poet and novelist, will talk on Blackfeet Indian culture. Luncheon speaker on Friday will be Paul F. Sharop, author of **Whoop-Up Country**, talking about the comparative histories of western Canada and the U.S. At Saturday's luncheon John C. Ewers will present a slide/lecture on the Blackfeet's pictorial history.

Conference activities begin with a reception on Thursday evening, though formal sessions don't begin until Friday morning. During each morning and afternoon session two workshops will run concurrently. Here are the scheduled workshop topics:

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday morning: | • Researching Montana homesteads<br>• Photographs as documents |
| Friday afternoon: | • The history of Waterton-Glacier Park<br>• Homestead society on the high plains |
| Saturday morning: | • Assessing homestead sites and abandoned buildings<br>• Oral history interview techniques |
| Saturday afternoon: | • The U.S.-Canadian border's significance to Indian history<br>• The importance of Missouri River freight traffic to northern Montana/southern Alberta development |

*For further information on the conference contact the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601.*

## NEH Budget
(continued from page 1)

We want to keep hearing your ideas for projects. We want to encourage you to apply for MCH grants—any non-profit organization is eligible. And we want your suggestions of programs that would be right for Montana.

**The Bad News . . .**

The NEH budget for FY 1983 may drop by 26.5 percent to $96 million—$34.5 million *less* than for FY 1982 and 55.3 million less than was appropriated in FY 1981. Though this figure is still not as low as the $85 million the OMB proposed for FY 1982, it does demonstrate the administration's deep conviction that for the humanities, private, rather than federal, funds are more appropriate. Reflecting this conviction is the proposed increase from 25 percent to 30 percent in the proportion of NEH money to come from Treasury funds and Challenge Grants, money to match support from corporations, foundations, non-federal organizations, agencies and individuals.

If passed, the 1983 budget would cut funds for state humanities programs from $20.3 million to $13.2 million, a drastic 35 percent reduction. Larger than the 35 percent cut in funds for state humanities programs is the proposed 55 percent cut in NEH funds for other public programs, things like media projects, museum and library projects, historical organizations. Other possible cuts in funds for NEH divisions are shown in the table below which compares funds appropriated in FY 1982 to those proposed for FY 1983. The Congress has not yet acted on the budget for 1983. Readers are urged to contact their Congressional representatives to express their views on these matters.

**Back to Good News . . .**

For the 1982-83 period we're optimistic. The state humanities programs were an experiment in passing funds and power from Washington to the states, something that is in fashion now. Congress has shown that it approves of the way we're organized. Fears that the President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities was set up to dismantle the Endowments were allayed by its report. The Task Force, though by no means uncritical of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, was impressed with the chorus of support for them it heard from a variety of professional and business people. Witness after witness testified not only to the value of the Endowments' work but to the fairness, efficiency and frugality with which they do it. As a result, the Task Force report gives the National Endowment for the Humanities and state programs like ours a vote of confidence. For a copy of the report of the President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities write the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20404.

**NEH Budgets Compared**

| | FY 1982 (actual) | FY 1983 (proposed) |
|---|---|---|
| Education Programs | $14,301,000 | $10,700,000 |
| Fellowships and Seminars | 13,405,000 | $9,200,000 |
| Research Grants | 15,705,000 | 13,000,000 |
| Public Programs | 18,009,000 | 8,300,000 |
| State Programs | 20,329,000 | 13,200,000 |
| Special Programs | 7,953,000 | 4,100,000 |
| Planning and Assessment | 730,000 | 500,000 |

Mary C. Blew, MCH Chairman, and Margaret C. Kingsland, MCH Director.

# NEH Publishes Humanities

To keep its supporters abreast of current studies in the humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities now puts out a bimonthly publication, *Humanities*. The most recent issue focused on the importance of history in today's world, with articles like "Uses of History in Public Policy," "Public History," and "History in the Making."

*Humanities* now circulates to 4,000 paid subscribers, a figure that NEH hopes, of course, to increase. The publication costs $7 a year (6 issues). To subscribe, write to Superintendent of Public Documents, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

# Grant Summary

In the past several months the following grants have been awarded:

**Phil White Hawk Inspirada Americana,** sponsored by the Livingston City-County Public Library Foundation, $580.

**Educational-Cultural Sharing and Enrichment,** sponsored by the Missoula Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow Committee, $1,770.

**Montana Conference on the Prevention of Nuclear War,** sponsored by the Helena Learners' Exchange, Environmental Studies Program, University of Montana; Carroll College, Montana Association of Churches, Montana Senior Citizens Association, National Organization of Women, Catholic Diocese of Helena and Western Montana, Montana Environmental Information Center, Low-Income Senior Citizens Advocates, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Clergy and Laity Concerned, $7,931.

**Montana Conference on Families and Work: Values in Transition,** sponsored by the Montana Division of the American Association of University Women, Montanans for Children, Youth and Families; and Montana Human Resources Development Council Directors' Association, $9,384.

**Butte: The Urban Frontier,** sponsored by the Butte Historical Society, Northwest Regional Office of U.S. Parks Service, Anaconda Minerals Co., Montana Power Co., Arts Chateau, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Montana Tech; Butte Urban Revitalization Agency, $9,938.

**Tracks Across the Valley,** sponsored by the Hockaday Center for the Arts, $8,396.

**Yellowstone History Conference,** sponsored by the Western Heritage Center and Rocky Mountain College, Billings, $1,704.

**From the River North: The Heritage of Western Canada and the United States,** sponsored by the Montana Historical Society, $7,948.

**Inspirada Americana,** sponsored by the Carbon County Arts Guild, $288.

**Homesteaders,** sponsored by Eastern Montana College Psychology and Gerontology Departments, $3,243.

**Film Distribution and Maintenance,** sponsored by University of Montana Instructional Materials Service, $8,678.

**My Friend Uses Good Medicine,** sponsored by the North American Indian Alliance, $3,678.

**Energy: Culture and Technology,** sponsored by Northwest Women's Studies Association, Women's Resource Center, Affiliated Women of MSU, Women and Technology Network, $8,178.

# Notice: Film and Video Grants Suspended

MCH will not fund films or video tapes from April, 1982, to April, 1983. During this period the MCH is reviewing its policies and procedures relating to grants for original media productions, which have been the largest grants awarded by the MCH.

The Committee **will**, however, be pleased to continue to review applications for funds for humanities-focused radio, slide-tape, and film-strip productions. The MCH will also continue to loan its existing films and video tapes free of charge. For a listing of these resources write the Instructional Materials Service, University of Montana.

The Committee welcomes readers' advice and observations about its policies regarding media productions.

# Calendar of Forthcoming MCH Events

| DATE | LOCATION | GRANT TITLE |
|---|---|---|
| September - December, 1982 | Yellowstone County<br>Carbon County<br>Stillwater County<br>Big Horn County<br>(Contact EMC Psychology/ Gerontology Departments for further information) | "Homesteaders |
| September 18, 1982 | Kennedy School<br>Butte | "My Friend Uses Good Medicine" |
| September 24-25, 1982 | Butte High School<br>Butte | "Butte: The Urban Frontier" |
| September 24-25, 1982 | College of<br>Great Falls | "Montana Conference on Families and Work" |
| October 8-11, 1982 | University of Montana<br>Missoula | "Energy: Culture and Technology" |
| October 29-30, 1982 | Rainbow Hotel<br>Great Falls | "From the River North: The Heritage of Western Canada and the United States" |

Full committee meeting in Missoula, April 1982.

**The Montana Committee for the Humanities**
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*** Appointed by Governor Schwinden.**

# Another Grant Source

The Montana Committee for the Humanities always regrets that it can't fund all the worthy projects it considers. Its members wish to remind you that should they turn down your grant proposal, you have recourse to the cultural and aesthetic grants made by the 43th Legislative Assembly and administered by the Montana Historical Society.

To qualify for such a grant, your proposal must be sponsored by or connected with a unit of state or local government and must deal with some cultural and aesthetic aspect of Montana life. Also your proposal should contain the following specifics:

1) A description of the project, including its intended audience, its purpose, its method, and its expected product or result.

2) A line-item budget. If the project has phases, make clear which phase you propose for funding.

3) A short abstract of the proposal: two or three sentences about the nature and purpose of the project, total funds requested, and a statement of government affiliation or sponsorship.

To be considered for a grant in 1983, submit three copies of your complete proposal with abstract by November 1 to: Director's Office, Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620.